

SCHEDULE – ESS SUMMER SCHOOL ATHENS 2026, Thursday 23. July to Sunday 26. July

This is Version 12, last updated on 17. May 2026. Although we do not expect the schedule to change significantly there may be nevertheless some small adjustments in timings or content.

LEVELS reference descriptions

BEG Beginner. This embraces all people having started to play shakuhachi within the last year or just starting up now.

ELE Elementary assumes that the player can obtain *kari* notes in *otsu* with reasonable security, is familiar with *kan* notes, even if still learning to produce them reliably, and has some basic idea of *meri* notes, even if intonation may be unstable.

INT Intermediate assumes that the player is secure with *kari* notes in *otsu* and *kan*, and is capable of producing *meri* notes reliably in both octaves, with reasonably reliable intonation. **General command of the provided scores is important.**

ADV Advanced assumes that the player has a high degree of proficiency and control in production of *meri* and *kari* tones in *otsu* and *kan*, and is familiar with *dai-kan* notes. Intonation is reliable and stable, with good control of shaping and shading of dynamics, timbre and pitch. **Ability to read the relevant scores is essential.**

MIX Mixed all levels are welcome



INVITEES (in alphabetical order)

Kōmei Ashigaki (KA)

Horacio Curti (HC)

Kiku Day (KD)

Yerasimos Dimovasilis (YD)

Jim Franklin (JF)

Fumie Hihara (FH)

Philip Horan (PH)

Rei Jin (RJ)

Thorsten Knaub (TK)

Gunnar Jinmei Linder (GL)

Véronique Piron (VP)

Emmanuelle Rouaud (ER)

ESS Commission: Ramon Humet (RH)

Organisers



Nominal support



NEW YORK COLLEGE BUILDING

Ground Floor: Conference Room, Library

First Floor: Cafeteria

Second Floor: Teaching Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4

Third Floor: Teaching Rooms 5 & 6, Rehearsal Rooms 7 & 8

SUMMER SCHOOL LOCATIONS

Main workshop location, Open mics, Participants' concert

New York College

Thessalonikis 286, Tavros 177 78, Athens

Thursday evening concert

Japanese Embassy Athens

Eth. Antistaseos 46, Chalandri 152 31, Athens

Friday and Saturday evening concert

Parnassos Literary Society

Agiou Georgiou Square, Karitsi 8, Athina 105 61, Athens,

GREEK THEMED SESSIONS – YD + Marina Konstantinou – voice, santour

WATAZUMIDO EXHIBITION – presented by Dimitris Rapakousios

TRANSLATORS

Gunnar Jinmei Linder, Kiku Day,

Aaro Haavisto

ORGANISATION

Athens 2026 Team – ESS & Yerasimos Dimovasilis in Greece

Local assistance by Alexandros Aivaliotis, Tassos Tataroglou and Dimitris Rapakousios.

ESS Board:

Thorsten Knaub, Emmanuelle Rouaud,

Christina Willms, Paweł Szulik,

Ramon Humet, Clive Bell.

ESS 20th Anniversary Sunday evening

“Farewell/Anniversary Dinner + Party”

The Grilli's Koutouki, Anaxagora 7, Tavros 177 78, Athens

23.7 DAY 1 THURSDAY	Conference Room	TEACHING ROOM1	TEACHING ROOM 2	TEACHING ROOM 3	TEACHING ROOM 4	TEACHING ROOM 5	TEACHING ROOM 6	ROOM 7 Rehearsals	ROOM 8 Rehearsals	Cafeteria	Library	Parnas. Central Hall	Japanese Embassy	Notes
8h30-8h50	Registration Summer Sch. + Day Pass													
8h50-9h25	Welcome + announcements <i>ro-buki</i> + tip 1													
9h30-10h10	Group piece rehearsal 1 RH						Relaxation Session tbc							
10h10-10h15	SHORT BREAK (to go to teaching rooms)										Late Registration + Day Pass			
10h15-11h15	INT Chikumeisha <i>Hifumi Hachigaeshi</i> KA/GL	INT Jin Nyodo <i>Shirabe · Sagariha</i> RJ	ELE/INT Fukushima J. <i>Nantou Tansai no Fu</i> (+koto) VP	ELE/INT Chikuho <i>Yamato Chōshi</i> JF		BEG ER/TK		Rehearsals for Open Mic 1	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use		Sellers Set up			
11h15-11h30	BREAK													
11h30-12h45	INT Chikumeisha <i>Kurokami 1 (sh)</i> KA/GL	INT Jin Nyodo <i>Mukaiji</i> RJ	ELE/INT Tozan <i>Heiwa no Sanga</i> PH	ELE/INT KSK <i>Honshirabe</i> HC		BEG ER/TK		Rehearsals for Open Mic 1	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use					
12h45-14h00	LUNCH at NYC Cafeteria										Trade Room open + Watazumi Exhibition			
13h30-14h00	LUNCH Open Mic Concert: Bamboo, Bowls & Bells I (open mic curated)									Concert				
14h00-15h15	ELE/INT Jin Nyodo <i>Daiwagaku</i> RJ	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Yuki 1 (shms.)</i> KA	ELE Chikumeisha <i>Taki-otoshi 1</i> GL	INT KSK <i>Ukigumo 1</i> ER	MIX Electronics 1 JF	BEG VP		Rehearsals for Concerts Or free use	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use					
15h15-15h30	BREAK													
15h30-16h45	ELE/INT Jin Nyodo <i>Murasaki Reibo</i> RJ	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Akita Sugagaki</i> KA	ELE Chikumeisha <i>Taki-otoshi 2</i> GL	INT KSK <i>Ukigumo 2</i> ER	MIX Electronics 2 JF	BEG PH		Rehearsals for Concerts or free use	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use					
16h45-17h00	BREAK & getting ready for Bus departure													
17h00-18h00	Bus departs 17h00 – group travel to Japanese Embassy											Rehearsals at Embassy ca. 17h00-18h30		
18h00-19h30	BREAK with DINNER TIME near Embassy													
19h30-19h45	“Welcome” at Japanese Embassy Athens													
19h45-21h00	The Opening Gala Concert – 20th Anniversary ESS 2006-2026													
21h00-22h00	Socialising, snack & refreshments. Details tbc.													
22h10-22h30	(tbc) Bus departs 22h10 to return to Central Athens (i.e. Syntagma metro station, 6’ walk to Omiros Hotel)													

24.7 DAY 2 FRIDAY	Conference Room	TEACHING ROOM1	TEACHING ROOM 2	TEACHING ROOM 3	TEACHING ROOM 4	TEACHING ROOM 5	TEACHING ROOM 6	ROOM 7 Rehearsals	ROOM 8 Rehearsals	Cafeteria	Library	Parnassos Central Hall	Jap. Emb.	Notes
9h00-9h25	ro-buki + tip 2 announcements													
9h30-10h10	Group piece rehearsal 2 RH						Relaxation Session tbc							
10h10-10h15	SHORT BREAK (to go to teaching rooms)													
10h15-11h15	ADV Jin Nyodo <i>San'ya</i> (Echigo) RJ	INT Chikumeisha <i>Kurokami 2</i> (shamisen) KA	INT/ADV Seki Ichiro <i>Nihon Minyō ni yoru 1</i> (trio)* VP	ELE Tozan <i>Fuji</i> PH	Shakuhachi Making 1 <i>Utaguchi</i> (Kinko style) TK	BEG KD	Individual Lessons 10h15-10h40 JF 10h40-11h05 JF 11h05-11h30 JF	Rehearsals for Open Mic 2	Rehearsals for Concerts			Trade Room open + Watazumi Exhibition		
11h15-11h30	BREAK													
11h30-12h45	ADV Jin Nyodo <i>Mushushin Kyoku</i> RJ	INT Chikumeisha <i>Shika no Tone</i> KA	ELE/INT Fukushima J. <i>Nantou Tansai no Fu</i> (+koto) VP	MIX Improvisation HC	Shakuhachi Making 2 <i>Utaguchi</i> (Kinko style) TK	BEG KD	Individual Lessons 11h30-11h55 ER 11h55-12h20 ER 12h20-12h45 ER	Rehearsals for Open Mic 2	Rehearsals for Concerts					
12h45-14h00	LUNCH at NYC Cafeteria													
13h30-14h00	LUNCH Open Mic Concert: Bamboo, Bowls & Bells II (open mic curated)									Concert				
14h00-15h15	ELE/INT Chikumeisha <i>Yūgure no Kyoku 1</i> GL	MIX Greek Theme <i>Triantafyllia</i> YD	INT/ADV Zensabo <i>Echigo San'ya 1</i> KD	INT Contemporary <i>Techniques + De Vagues... 1</i> ER	Shakuhachi Making 3 <i>cont. or Q&A</i> TK	BEG PH	Individual Lessons 14h00-14h25 HC 14h25-14h50 HC 14h50-15h15 HC	Rehearsals for Concerts	Rehearsals for Concerts					
15h15-15h30	BREAK													
15h30-16h45	ELE/INT Chikumeisha <i>Yūgure no Kyoku 2</i> GL	MIX Film Themes for shakuhachi PH	INT/ADV Zensabo <i>Echigo San'ya 2</i> KD	INT Contemporary <i>De Vagues et d'Elans 2</i> ER	MIX Electronics 3 JF	BEG VP		Rehearsals for Concerts or free use	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use					
16h45-17h00	BREAK													
17h00-18h00	Talk/ Lecture ??		Talk/ Lecture <i>Irish Music on shakuhachi</i> PH				Relaxation Session tbc							
18h00-19h45	BREAK with TRAVEL & DINNER TIME (by yourselves, the suggestion would be to be already in the old town near Parnassos Hall.)													
20h00-21h30	20th Anniversary ESS Concert 1 at Parnassos Hall: <i>Sound to Silence – Japanese Music for shakuhachi, koto & shamisen</i> Mixed programme with focus on traditional repertoire											Concert		

25.7 DAY 3 SATURDAY	Conference Room	TEACHING ROOM1	TEACHING ROOM 2	TEACHING ROOM 3	TEACHING ROOM 4	TEACHING ROOM 5	TEACHING ROOM 6	ROOM 7 Rehearsals	ROOM 8 Rehearsals	Cafeteria	Library	Parnassos Central Hall	Jap. Emb.	Notes
9h00-9h25	<i>ro-buki</i> + tip 3 announcements											Registr. Day Pass		
9h30-10h10	Group piece rehearsal 3 RH				Opens 9h30 Video Projection		Relaxation Session tbc							
10h10-10h15	SHORT BREAK (to go to teaching rooms)				DIY Soundtracks Improvisation									
10h15-11h15	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Haru no Yo 1</i> (+koto) KA	ELE/INT Jin Nyodo <i>Kumoi jishi</i> RJ	MIX Technique <i>Tips & Tricks</i> HC	INT/ADV Chikuho <i>Hokyō Kokū 1</i> JF	DIY Soundtracks Improvisation	BEG YD	Individual Lessons 10h15-10h40 PH 10h40-11h05 PH 11h05-11h30 PH	Rehearsals for Open Mic 3 <i>tbc</i>	Rehearsals for Concerts		Trade Room open + Watazumi Exhibition			
11h15-11h30	BREAK													
11h30-12h45	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Haru no Yo 2</i> (+koto) KA	INT/ADV Jin Nyodo <i>Nagashi Reibo</i> RJ	INT KSK <i>Shika no Tone</i> HC	INT/ADV Chikuho <i>Hokyō Kokū 2</i> JF	ELE Improvisation & image TK	BEG YD	Individual Lessons 11h30-11h55 VP 11h55-12h20 VP 12h20-12h45 VP	Rehearsals for Open Mic 3	Rehearsals for Concerts					
12h45-14h00	LUNCH at NYC Cafeteria													
13h30-14h00	LUNCH Open Mic Concert: Bamboo, Bowls & Bells III (sign up)								Concert					
14h00-15h15	INT/ADV Chikumeisha <i>Hototogisu 1</i> GL	MIX Greek Theme <i>Cherubic Hymn</i> YD	INT/ADV Myoan <i>Shika no Tone 1</i> KD	INT Tozan <i>Asa Kaze 1</i> PH	DIY Soundtracks Improvisation	BEG HC	Individual Lessons 14h00-14h25 TK 14h25-14h50 TK 14h50-15h15 TK (playing or making)	Rehearsals for Concerts	Rehearsals for Concerts					
15h15-15h30	BREAK													
15h30-16h45	INT/ADV Chikumeisha <i>Hototogisu 2</i> (+koto) GL	ELE/INT Technique <i>Jazz up your fingers...</i> VP	INT/ADV Myoan <i>Shika no Tone 2</i> KD	INT Tozan <i>Asa Kaze 2</i> PH	DIY Soundtracks Improvisation	BEG HC		Rehearsals for Concerts or free use	Rehearsals for Concerts or free use					
16h45-17h00	BREAK													
17h00-18h00	Talk/ Lecture		Talk/ Lecture <i>Ueda-ryū</i> AH				Relaxation Session tbc							
18h00-19h45	BREAK with TRAVEL & DINNER TIME (by yourselves). The suggestion would be to be already in the old town near Parnassos Hall.													
20h00-21h30	20th Anniversary ESS Concert 2 at Parnassos Hall: <i>Sound to Silence – Japanese Music for shakuhachi, koto & shamisen</i> Mixed programme with focus on modern & contemporary repertoire											Concert		

26.7 DAY 4 SUNDAY	Conference Room	TEACHING ROOM1	TEACHING ROOM 2	TEACHING ROOM 3	TEACHING ROOM 4	TEACHING ROOM 5	TEACHING ROOM 6	ROOM 7 Rehearsals	ROOM 8 Rehearsals	Cafeteria	Library	Parnas. Central Hall	Jap. Emb.	Notes
9h00-9h30	ro-buki + tip 4 announcements										Registr. half Pass			
9h30-9h45	BREAK													
9h45-11h00	INT Jin Nyodo <i>Matsukaze</i> RJ	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Yuki</i> (shamisen) KA	INT/ADV Seki Ichiro <i>Nihon Minyō ni yoru 2</i> (trio)* VP	ADV KSK <i>Tsuru no Sugomori 1</i> HC	ELE/INT Anime/ Naruto ER	BEG JF	Individual Lessons 9h45-10h10 KD 10h10-10h35 KD 10h35-11h00 KD	Rehearsals for Open Mic 4 or Participants' Concert	Rehearsals for Participants' Concert or free use		Trade Room open + Watazumi Exhibition			
11h00-11h15	BREAK													
11h15-12h30	INT Jin Nyodo <i>Koku</i> RJ	ADV Chikumeisha <i>Shin Kyorei</i> KA	MIX <i>Minyō Song & Dance**</i> (voice + shamisen) VP	ADV KSK <i>Tsuru no Sugomori 2</i> HC	ELE/INT Tozan <i>Seikaiha</i> PH	BEG JF	Individual Lessons 11h15-11h40 GL 11h40-12h05 GL 12h05-12h30 GL	Rehearsals for Open Mic 4 or Participants' Concert	Rehearsals for Participants' Concert or free use					
12h30-13h45	LUNCH at NYC Cafeteria													
13h15-13h45	LUNCH time session: Open Mic Concert: Bamboo, Bowls & Bells IV (sign up or special presentations)									Concert				
13h50-15h00	ESS AGM 2026 FOR MEMBERS						Relaxation Session tbc	Rehearsals for Participants' Concert	Rehearsals for Participants' Concert		Trade Room closed			
15h00-15h15	BREAK										Clearing up time till 18h00 max			
15h15-17h30	FAREWELL CONCERT – Participants perform the newly studied pieces													
17h30-18h00	BREAK & PACK UP, CLEAN UP AND OUT													
18h00~	FAREWELL & 20th ANNIVERSARY at “To koutouki tou Grilli” (Anaxagora 7, Tavros 177 78, Greece) This local tavern is a 6 minute walk from NYC. The idea is to gather there and have food and drink together. The ESS will do a raffle and provide an anniversary cake too. There will be possibilities to play music and jam together with Greek musicians too.													